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COUNTRY

Germany/NSRB

DATE

SUBJECT

Activities of Akkumulatorenfabrik
GmbHPLACE
ACQUIREDNO.
(DATE)

DATE OF INFO

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

50X1-HUM

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1. The Akkumulatorenfabrik was originally a branch of the German firm, Akkumulatorenfabrik A.G., with main offices in Berlin; there was another branch in Belgrade. After confiscation by the Russians, a Russian, Marosevich, was named general manager of the firm. The plant has three divisions:

- Varta branch, producing portable storage batteries for automobiles, with a sales office at Vienna 7, Kurburgerstrasse;
- Engineers' division, producing stationary storage batteries for power plants, with a sales office at Vienna 3, Wipplingerstrasse 20;
- Pertrix branch, producing dry batteries, without a separate sales office.

2. Engineer Alois Pils, a battery expert, is the supervisor of the plant. His wife is a Russian, but Pils himself does not seem to be a Communist and has frequently made anti-Communist remarks.

3. Two employees in the Pertrix division, Ernst Mivka, engineer, and Franz Necl, foreman, are considered indispensable experts. These two men are said to know of a secret process for producing an electrolytic solution to fill dry batteries. Haliternhuette in Carinthia formerly furnished the lead required for this solution; but, since deliveries have been discontinued, Pertrix will soon have to use ammonium chloride for this purpose.

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4. At the end of December 1947, Karl Wagner, a [redacted] Communist, was appointed by USIA to be administrative head (Personalreferent) of the plant. Another Communist, Alois Prandl, is public relations director (Kulturreferent).

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5. Akkumulatorenfabrik G.m.b.H. employs 300 laborers and an administrative staff of sixty. Shop elections turned out in favor of the Socialists. The head of the employees' committee has no party affiliation and is under continual attack by the Communists.

CLASSIFICATION

STATE	☒	NAVY	☒	NSRB	☒
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Document No.

NO CHANGE in Class.

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Class. CHANGED TO: TS

Auth: DDA Memo 4 Apr 77

Date: 5 MAY 1978

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This document is hereby regraded to
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6. An expensive transformer station is under construction at the plant which will supply the firm with its own electric current. Necessary coal will be supplied by a Russian plant at Grunbach, Lower Austria.
7. At the end of the war, most of Admalfabrik's machinery was carried off by the Russians and was never replaced. Capacity was consequently much reduced in comparison with former times. Since the Russians have been in control of the plant, very little of the output has appeared on the Austrian market; the greater part has been delivered to the Red Army. Ultimate disposition of the goods by the Red Army is unknown.
8. Goods were sent abroad in three known cases:
 - a. On 21 May 1947, a shipment of plates for stationary storage batteries was sent to the commander of the Soviet Military Section.
 - b. On 30 October 1947, 946 boxes, containing 405,000 storage battery plates, type DeEf, were delivered to Fuhtrams at Vienna IV, Wohllebengasse.
 - c. In early January 1948, the plant received orders to begin immediate production of 700,000 storage battery plates, type DeEf, again for delivery to Fuhtrams. The order is being carried out, and the goods will be completed sometime in March.
9. Production schedules for 1948 call for a monthly production of 300,000 battery plates a month (compared with 250,000 produced last year). If all other work is dropped, this schedule can be met; thus, the above-mentioned order for 700,000 battery plates can be filled, as 900,000 battery plates could be produced by the end of March. The surplus 200,000 plates would be available for the Austrian market, though only for customers recommended by USIA, inasmuch as free sale by the factory, especially to former customers, is forbidden. The same applies to Pertrix dry batteries, which may be sold only to customers recommended by USIA.
10. Battery plates are assembled into batteries and then put into a box of vulcanized India-rubber. Delivery of plates does not usually include delivery of boxes or of the necessary acids. About a thousand such boxes are stored at the factory, but, according to orders from the Russian general manager, they may not be touched.
11. At the beginning of February 1948, secret orders were released at the plant, strictly forbidding all personnel from giving information, even to the Austrian government authorities, on activities within the plant and especially on USIA production. Anyone who violates this order will be subject to trial by Soviet military authorities. The workers' committee of the plant intends to submit a written protest against the order.
12. Balancing of the books, which was supposed to be completed by the end of January 1948, was put off until the end of February 1948, according to an order from the management of the plant.

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